

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The final Office Action of July 5, 2007, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 6, 19, and 32 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the language of claim 6, independent claim 14 has been amended to include the language of claim 19, and independent claim 29 has been amended to include the language of claim 32, and claims 6, 19, and 32 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In the final Office Action mailed July 5, 2007, claims 1-4, 9-11, 29 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), as being anticipated by Willars et al (2003/0013443). As noted above, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the language of claim 6, and independent claim 29 has been amended to include the language of claim 32. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4, 9-11, 29 and 34 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 5 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willars in view of Chambert (U.S. Patent No. 5,499,387).

Claims 7, 8, 30 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willars in view of Kennedy, III et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,966,658)

Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willars in view of Igarashi (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2001/0053694).

Claims 14-17, 22-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willars in view of Funato (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0087646).

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Willars and Funato in view of Chambert.

Claims 20 and 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Willars and Funato in view of Kennedy.

Claims 27 and 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Willars and Funato in view of Igarashi.

As noted above, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the language of claim 6, independent claim 14 has been amended to include the language of claim 19, and independent claim 29 has been amended to include the language of claim 32. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the § 103(a) rejections of the above claims have been overcome.

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests prompt notification of the same. If there are any questions, the examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

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By:



Robert H. Resis
Registration No. 32,168
Direct Dial: (312) 463-5405

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
10 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 3000
Chicago, IL 60606-7407
Tel: (312) 463-5000
Fax: (312) 463-5001